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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,657	08/16/2001	Andrew Charles David Hay	B-4271 618992-5	2844

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAO H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/931,657

Applicant(s)

HAY ET AL.

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Novoa et al. (US Patent No. 6,223,284 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Novoa discloses security apparatus comprising a receiver for receiving a security metric associated with a computer entity [..the remote flash an security package may be resident to the target computer system; see abstract and col. 11, lines 3-22]; means for presenting to a user the security metric; means for modifying a security setting associated with the computer entity to enable the modification of the security metric associated with the computer entity [..the administrator may modify the current setting of any selected security setting dialog box; see col. 8, lines 19-32 and col. 7, lines 50-67].

Regarding claim 2, Novoa discloses, wherein the security metric is presented to a user as a representational model of software and/or hardware functionality of the computer entity (see figures 6A-10).

Regarding claim 3, Novoa discloses according to claim1, further comprising input means for allowing a user to interact with the modifying means to modify the security setting (see col.. 13, lines 45-64).

Regarding claim 4, Novoa discloses further comprising means for establishing possible modifications to the security setting based upon the received security metric (see col. 26, lines 20-67).

Regarding claim 5, Novoa discloses, wherein the level of complexity of the presented is selectable by a user metric (see col. 12, lines 14-54).

Regarding claim 6, Novoa discloses method for modifying the security status of a computer apparatus, the method comprising receiving a security metric associated with a computer entity; presenting to a user the security metric; modifying a security setting associated with the computer entity to enable the modification of the security metric associated with the computer entity (see col. 14, lines 28-67 and figures 6A-9).

Regarding claim 7, Novoa discloses wherein representing the plurality of component comprises representing software and/or hardware functionality of the computer platform (see figure 11).

Regarding claim 8, Novoa discloses further comprising presenting to the user possible modifications to the security setting (see col. 7, lines 40-67).

Regarding claim 9, Novoa discloses, further comprising allowing the user to select a level of complexity of representing to the user the plurality of components (see figure 13).

Regarding claims 10 and 14, Novoa discloses a memory to store computer-readable code; and a processor operatively coupled to said memory and configured to implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code being configured to represent to a user a plurality of computer components, represent to the user interactions among the plurality of computer components [..the remote flash and security package may be resident to the target

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computer system; see abstract and col. 11, lines 3-22 and col. 2, lines 40-67]; and allow the user to modify a security setting associated with at least one of the computer components [..the administrator may modify the current setting of any selected security setting dialog box; see col. 8, lines 19-32 and col. 7, lines 50-67].

Regarding claims 11 and 15, Novoa discloses, wherein representing the plurality of computer components comprises representing software and/or hardware functionality of a computer (see figures 6A-10).

Regarding claims 12 and 16, Novoa discloses, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured to present the user possible modifications to the security setting (see col. 13, lines 45-64).

Regarding claims 13 and 17, Novoa discloses, wherein the computer-readable code is further configured to allow the user to select a level of complexity of representing to the user the plurality of computer components (see figure 13)..

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 10/07/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Novoa does not teach or suggest represent to a user a plurality of computer components, represent to the user interactions among the plurality of computer components; and allow the user to modify a security setting associated with at least one of the computer components. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in figures 9-11, Novoa teaches the new ROM image and flash utility may be initially stored onto a secondary ROM or

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non-volatile random access memory (NVRAM) and then copied to the system ROM of the computer system. The system ROM is placed in a protected state by the basic input/output system (BIOS) services during power up of the computer system, thereby preventing a flash operation to the system ROM. After the new ROM image and flash utility are downloaded, the flash utility forces the user to create a flash utility diskette. The user then cold boots the computer system with the created diskette in the floppy drive. When the computer system detects the created diskette, the computer system brings up the program to flash the system ROM. The program to flash the system ROM can prompt the user to enter an administrator password. The program then allows the user to set a configuration parameter or flag to indicate a request to flash the system ROM with the new ROM image. The request to flash the ROM is queued. Upon a reboot of the computer system, the flash utility diskette provides the administrator password to the system ROM to place the system ROM in an unprotected state allowing for a flash operation to the system ROM. Placing the system ROM in an unprotected state upon reboot prevents the BIOS from protecting or locking the ROM. The flash utility diskette next flashes the system ROM. It thus has been necessary for a user to copy a flash utility and ROM image to the system ROM, reboot the computer system, and enter an administrator password as a prerequisite to flashing the ROM. The flash utility which performs the flash of the system ROM also verifies that the system ROM is flashed correctly. The computer system must then be rebooted again to activate the new ROM image flashed to the system ROM, as recited in col. 2, lines 40-67.

The applicant argues that Novoa does not teach or suggest a memory to store computer-readable code; and a processor operatively coupled to said memory and configured to

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implement said computer-readable code, said computer-readable code being configured to represent to a user a plurality of computer components, represent to the user interactions among the plurality of computer component; and allow the user to modify a security setting associated with at least one of the computer components. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in figures 4-6, Novoa teaches the options may for example include a Quick-Lock mode option for disabling a keyboard and mouse interface from within an application, a Quick-Blank mode option for blanking a video display from within an application, a removable media bootability option for preventing a user from booting the computer S from the removable media drives, a removable media writeability option for preventing a user from writing to the removable media drives, an IDE controller option for preventing a user from booting the computer system S from the fixed drives 26 connected to the IDE controller, a SCSI controller option for preventing a user from booting the computer system S from the devices connected to the SCSI controller, a serial port option for preventing a user from transferring data through the integrated serial interface, a parallel port option for preventing a user from transferring data through the integrated parallel interface, a USB port option for preventing a user from transferring data through the integrated USB interface, an option to change the administrator password, a smart cover lock option for inhibiting access to the interior of the computer system S to prevent unwanted configuration changes or component removal, a smart cover sensor option to alert a user when the computer cover or side panel has been removed, an option to change the ownership tag which specifies the owner of the computer system S, and an option to change the asset tag which is a unique number or text string such as an owner's property identification number used to help track the specific computer system S. The main window may also be

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controlled by clicking on a back window button for selecting the previous security setting option and by clicking on a next window button for selecting a next security setting option. If the administrator wishes to cancel selection of the security options, the administrator may click a cancel window button. If the administrator desires assistance in selecting security options, the user may click on a help window button. Further, the administrator may modify the current setting of any selected security setting option by double-clicking with the pointing device, as recited in column 7, lines 30-67.

Accordingly, the claimed invention as represented in the claims does not represent a patentable distinction over the art of record.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)272-4053.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571)272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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02/10/06